

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 SS-15 PM-07 L-03 RSC-01 DRC-01

SSO-00 /054 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3773

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7187

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, AR

SUBJECT: VANGUARD OPERATIONS

REF: STATE 193797

1. EMBASSY STRONGLY URGES RETAINING PRESENT MODE OF OPERATIONS. THE USE OF OTHER PORTS SUCH AS BUENOS AIRES OR PUERTO BELGRANO WOULD IN OUR OPINION BE POLITICALLY AND LOGISTICALLY UNWISE.

2. IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY INDICATES THREAT IS ONLY REPEAT ONLY TO THIELE AND NOT VANGUARD. REASON FOR THIS IS THIELE'S IDENTIFICATION AS RESULT OF ON-GOING PUBLICITY CONCERNING SKYLAB PROGRAM. IT CAN REASONABLY BE ASSUMED THAT THE THREAT AGAINST THIELE, BELIEVED TO BE CONNECTED WITH RECENT COUP IN CHILE, WILL DIMINISH WITH TIME. OUR INFORMATION TO DATE INDICATES A POSITIVE CONSTRUCTIVE ACCEPTANCE OF VANGUARD BY LOCAL POPULACE AND ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

3. FOR THE PRESENT, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION:

A. THIELE TO RETURN TO GODDARD FOR CONSULTATION. THIS WILL ESTABLISH COVER STORY OF THIELE BEING RECALLED TO CONSIDER FUTURE OPERATING PLANS FOR VANGUARD AND POSSIBILITY OF NEW POSITION. (THIELE HAD CONTEMPLATED GOING ON ANNUAL LOCAL LEAVE DURING THIS PERIOD, THEREFORE HIS PRESENCE NOT ESSENTIAL FOR PRESENT NORMAL

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STATION OPERATIONS). THIS ALSO WILL SUPPORT IMMEDIATE HASTY EVACU-

ATION OF THIELE'S FAMILY, AND REDUCE ADVERSE SPECULATIONS ON THIELE'S PRESENT MOVEMENTS. DO NOT CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE TO INFORM SHIP'S PERSONNEL OF THREAT AGAINST THIELE.

B. VANGUARD TO CONTINUE PRESENT MODE OF OPERATION I.E. THREE DAY ROTATION OF TECHNICAL CREW, WITH TWENTY-FIVE DAYS AT SEA PERIOD AND FIVE DAY RESUPPLY PERIOD IN MAR DEL PLATA.

C. THIELE TO REMAIN ABOARD VANGUARD FOR FULL 25 DAY PERIODS AND WHEN ASHORE NOTIFY EMBASSY IN ORDER THAT EMBASSY WILL BE AWARE OF HIS MOVEMENTS. THIELE'S MOVEMENTS MUST BE FLEXIBLE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR TECHNICAL LIAISON WITH CNIE (ARGENTINE SPACE COMMISSION).

D. EMBASSY OFFERS SERVICES OF CAPT MASSA FOR INTELLIGENCE/POLITICAL BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON TO FULLY EXPLAIN ARGENTINE NAVAL INTELLIGENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND EMBASSY'S POSITION REGARDING THEIR AND OUR RECOMMENDATIONS AS SET FORTH ABOVE.

4. THIS COURSE OF ACTION CONSIDERED TO BE IN BEST INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED. IF NEW INFORMATION IS RECEIVED AT SOME LATER DATE ADDITIONAL STEPS CAN BE TAKEN. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT PESSIMISTIC AT THIS POINT.

5. THIELE'S FAMILY HAS BEEN EVACUATED VIA AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS AIRLINES ARRIVING MIAMI 010730 OCT. THIELE IS PRESENTLY IN BUENOS AIRES AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS.

6. REGRET LATE RESPONSE TO REFERENCED CABLE, HOWEVER, MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED MONDAY MORNING DUE TO INCORRECT PRECEDENCE. LODGE

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